

Remarks

Initially Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 12 and 14 are allowable.

Objections

The Office objects to claims 16, 18-20, and 23 as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if written in dependent form. In response to this objection, Applicants have rewritten these claims to depend from their base claim.

Applicants also note that claims previously withdrawn, including claims 13, 24, 25, and 26, which depended from a claim now indicated as allowed, have been presented again. Applicants submit that those claims are immediately allowable, requiring no further search.

The remaining withdrawn claims have been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office rejects claims 1, 11, 15, 17, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lischewski et al. (DD 121263). In response, Applicants note that claims 1, 11, and 21 have been canceled and that claims 15 and 17 have been rewritten to depend from claim 12, which has been allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments obviate the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In this Amendment, previously objected-to or withdrawn claims are rewritten to depend from the

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allowed claims. Rejected independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are canceled, and the remaining withdrawn claims have been canceled. Applicants submit that these amendments leave the case immediately in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss actions that may be taken to place this application in condition for allowance. If any additional fees are due for consideration of this Response, the Office is expressly authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

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